

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-20, however, the Office Action only recognizes claim 1 as having been cancelled in the prior response. Applicants confirm the cancellation of claims 1-20 and, therefore, the present amendment only addresses the rejections of claims 21-40.

Claims 26 and 27 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection.

Claims 29 and 36 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as being allowable.

Claims 21-28, 30-35 and 37-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ninomiya, U.S. Patent No. 5,764,968. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a computer system in which a part of the main memory is able to be hot-plugged, hot-inserted or hot-added to the system. The computer system has the information of the size of the memory that will be hot-plugged to the system and the information is stored as memory size information in a non-volatile memory. Fig. 4 shows a preferred embodiment of the invention in which expandable memory information 124 is shown to be stored in the non-volatile memory 120 as the memory size information.

Claims 21 and 26 set forth that the non-volatile storage stores second memory information of the second memory to be

hot-plugged or hot-added. In claim 33, the non-volatile storage stores first information setting a memory size of a second main memory to be hot-inserted.

The computer disclosed by Ninomiya does not have information for hot-insertion until the device is hot-inserted. Ninomiya discloses a processor 11 and memory 13 that includes system memory 131 and memory to be added by a user 132. The Office Action states that the expanded memory 132 is a hot-added memory, but there is no mention of the memory being hot-added in column 4 of the reference. Further, the Office Action relies upon the disclosure in Ninomiya of an EEPROM 34 as the claimed non-volatile storage storing configuration information regarding a second main memory to be hot-plugged. However, the EEPROM 34 is not equivalent to the non-volatile memory for storing configuration information claimed by Applicants.

Specifically, the Office Action states that col. 7, line 22 et seq. of Ninomiya discloses that the EEPROM 34 stores information necessary for hot insertion, for example "addresses". However, the addresses referred to in the reference are I/O addresses, which do not correspond to the memory information set forth in claim 21, the configuration information set forth in claim 26 or the memory size information set forth in claim 31. Further, the expanded memory 132 is not equivalent to the hot-added memory of the invention and in any event, any information necessary for hot-

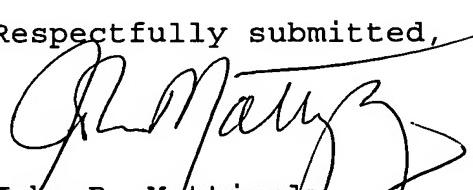
adding of a second memory in Ninomiya would not be present before the memory is hot-added, as in the present invention. Accordingly, reconsideration of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the claims is requested.

Applicants have added new claims 41-46 which are dependent claims. Each of these claims is patentable for depending from an independent claim that has been asserted to be patentable for the foregoing reasons and further for setting forth additional limitations of the claimed combination of the invention not disclosed or suggested by Ninomiya or the remainder of the other art of record.

Accordingly, each of claims 41-46 should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and re-examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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